



**Testimony to the Public Health Committee
February 27, 2013
By Leslie Simoes, Executive Director**

**Testimony: [Proposed S.B. 297 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM STATE LICENSING
PROCESS FOR PRIVATE COMMUNITY-BASED PROVIDERS.](#)**

The Arc Connecticut is a 60-year old advocacy organization committed to protecting the basic civil basic rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to promoting opportunities for their full inclusion in the life of their communities. We have 18 chapters across Connecticut providing direct support and services. We rose from grass roots advocacy and have hundreds of families and individuals with disabilities in our Arc family. Because we are driven by a philosophy that every person should be as independent as possible, Arcs across the state walk with people toward greater autonomy, saving millions of taxpayer dollars each year.

Our private non-profit provider system of support is crumbling as a result of continued underfunding and slow starvation of resources making the simple tasks our missions drive us to do more and more difficult. This bill will potentially ease the licensure burden currently faced by private providers who are required to file duplicative applications for multiple state agencies and achieve efficiencies and cost reductions in administrative expenses for both the state and the private providers.

These types of administrative changes will go a long way to supporting those who work with our families and individuals and lessen the administrative burden without an impact on the state. Please consider voting this bill out of committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, for clarification or to arrange a visit with a private provider of community based services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in you area. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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